

EASTERN

F.O.
371

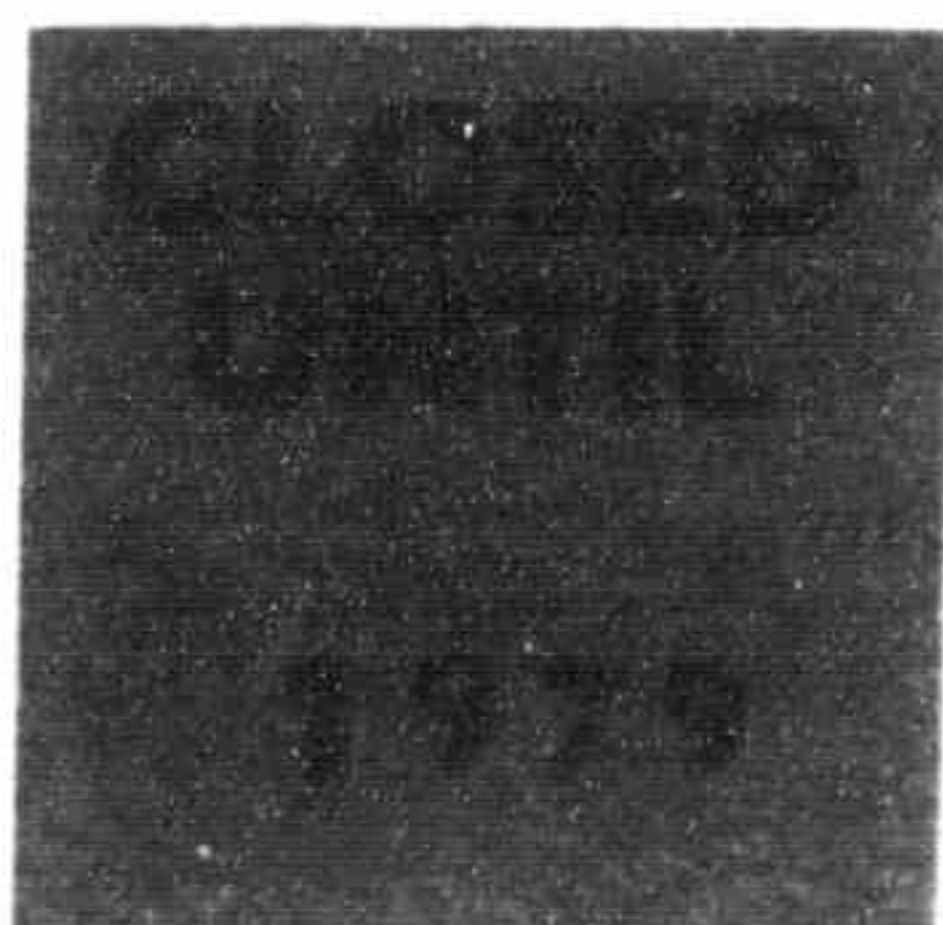
1948

PALESTINE



FILE No. 1260.....

..ls pp 9686.....



68654

E

2

E 126

PALESTINE

29 JAN 1948

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E1260/1260/31

W. H. Matheson

60

73136/48

27 Jan

29

Entry of British Detachments into Palestine
 received copy of Telegram from WPC 21 of
 Jan 13. in which it is stated the govt. has
 to further advance of British Detachments
 into Palestine.
 who to come on subject.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

68654

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

Sgt. W. H. Matheson 60
 from M. Smith.
 Feb 21

P.C. first

H. S. Benis
 Feb. 9

I understand that the Passport Office
 have already in the strict control.

Back
 12.2.48

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

9 Feb 21/2

14/2/48

Next Paper.

E 3170

Passport Office

At the moment we only
 grant the special endorsement
 required by BSS entering

29470 F.O.P.

Palestine, when we have received
an authority from the Dept of
migration at Jerusalem. This
authority is generally only given
when the journey is of urgent
business importance or when there
are strong compassionate grounds.

Passport office would like to
be advised as to the policy
to be followed when the British
administration leaves Palestine as
presumably the control of the
grant of passport facilities for
Palestine to BSS will then have
to be exercised from this end

Foster

17/2/48

Our present practice follows instructions
from Palestine & seems to exercise adequate
control over the entry of B.S.S. in present
circumstances. It would however be
desirable to have, if possible in advance,
some indication of the line to be taken
when British adminⁿ ceases.

H.F. Capewell
17/2/48.

P.P. 140.6. Walker & J. 75126/48 & M. Beeley 10/2

Draft to Co.

On 5.2.48

Ph. 18

B. 19/2

SAVING.

From the High Commissioner for Palestine.

To the Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Date.....13th January 1948.

No.....21.....Saving. SECRET. PRIORITY.

Subject is future of British nationals in Palestine other than Government officials, police and army and their families.

2. In 1940 the number of British nationals excluding Government officers and members of H.M. Forces and their wives and minor children in this country was 6,000 (most of them Jews), a high proportion of whom were from Aden. You should know that in response to an inquiry by the doctor in charge of the St. John's ophthalmic hospital an undertaking has been given that in event of it being necessary at the time of the withdrawal of the administration to evacuate British subjects in civilian employment or service from Palestine arrangements will be made to do so. It may be assumed that most "technical" British subjects who are in fact Jews and Arabs will not apply for evacuation, but they will probably apply to the British representative for protection and assistance if they believe themselves in personal danger or are in financial difficulties.

3. Having these considerations in mind I should be glad to know whether His Majesty's Government has any wishes regarding the further admission of British nationals to Palestine. The Tel Aviv - Petah Tiqva area is now considered safe for British residents and ordinarily I should have been disposed to authorise admission to any British subject who has legitimate cause for application and for whom accommodation is available. But it may be held desirable to keep admissions to a minimum.

4. One facet of this problem is missionaries. It is often necessary for them if they are to pursue their calling to live in isolated places, and no special protection can be afforded to these even while the mandate still operates.



Encl 4
E

Colonial Office,
Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

My Reference 75136/48.

Your Reference

27th January, 1948.

Dear Beeley,

E 1260

Entry of British nationals
into Palestine.

29 JAN 1948

I enclose a copy of a savingram from the High Commissioner for Palestine in which he raises the question whether in the circumstances described therein, H.M.G. would wish to consider the question of the further admission of British nationals to Palestine. There is, of course, at present, some restriction on the entry of British subjects since entry is controlled by the requirement of a special endorsement for Palestine which is only granted to British subjects who have legitimate reasons for entry into Palestine and for whom accommodation is available.

We should be grateful to have the early views of the Foreign Office on this question.

Yours sincerely,

(W.A.C. Mathieson)

H. BEELEY, ESQ., C.B.E.,
FOREIGN OFFICE.



My Reference 75136/48.

Your Reference

Colonial Office,
Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

10th February, 1948.

E1260 1260 77

Dear Beeley,

Entry of British nationals
into Palestine.

Would you please refer to my letter of the 27th January, enclosing a copy of savingram No. 21 of the 13th January from the High Commissioner for Palestine on the above question.

We have now received a telegraphic reminder from the High Commissioner, copy enclosed, and any action you could take to expedite Foreign Office views on this matter would be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

(W.A.C. Mathieson)

H. BEELEY, ESQ., C.B.E.,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A, Cunningham)

D. 5th February, 1948.

R. 6th " " 07.00 hrs.

No. 296.

January. My secret savingram No. 20 of 13th

**Grateful for an early indication of your
views regarding admission and evacuation of
non-official British subjects.**

Registry
No. E1260/1260/31.

J.G.S.E

Draft.

to

W.H.C.

Mr. Mathieson.

Colonial Office.

~~Top Secret.~~

~~Secret.~~

~~Confidential.~~

~~Restricted.~~

~~Open.~~

From: *SES*

Mr. Beith.

see minutes
[Signature]
~~Control~~ Passport
Office first.

JB RM.9

X will
Dear Will.

21st Feb
7
I am replying to your letter No. 75136
48 of January 27th to Beeley about the
entry of British Nationals into Palestine.

Our general view is that we should
not encourage British Nationals to go
to Palestine in the immediate future *owing*
to the unsettled situation.
Clearly any cases justified by business
or family reasons should be allowed, but
I suggest that we should stipulate that
such reasons should exist before granting
a permit.

I have consulted our Passport Office
who point out that the control exercised
by them at the wish of the Palestine
Government is at present very strict.
We therefore consider that the situation
can be left as it stands, since it would
be undesirable to ban all visits to
Palestine.

LP 19/2

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

FOREIGN OFFICE, S.W.1.

21st February, 1948.

(E 1260/1260/31)

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Will,

I am replying to your letter No. 75136/48 of the 27th January to Beeley about the entry of British Nationals into Palestine.

Our general view is that we should not encourage British Nationals to go to Palestine in the immediate future owing to the unsettled situation. Clearly any cases justified by business or family reasons should be allowed, but I suggest that we should stipulate that such reasons should exist before granting a permit.

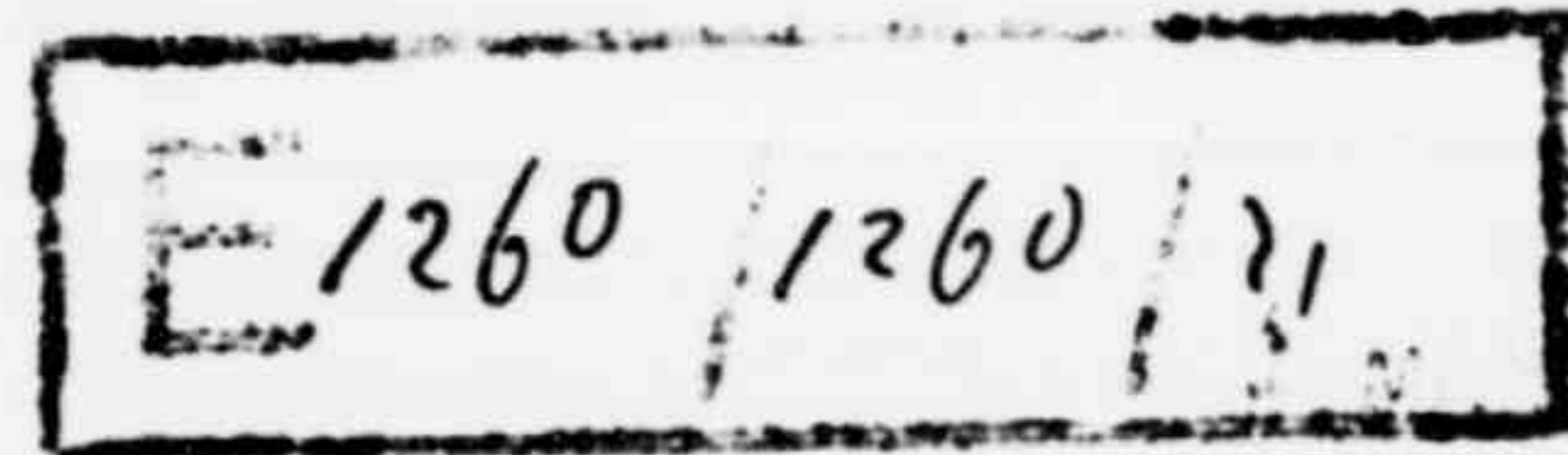
I have consulted our Passport Office who point out that the control exercised by them at the wish of the Palestine Government is at present very strict. We therefore consider that the situation can be left as it stands, since it would be undesirable to ban all visits to Palestine.

(J. G. S. Beith)

W. A. C. Mathieson, Esq., M.B.E.,
Colonial Office.

INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES



Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 26th February, 1948.

R. 26th " " 13.45 hrs.

INDEXED

IMMEDIATE.

No. 470 Secret

Your telegram No. 703.

My savingram No. 57 contains more detailed proposals regarding future of British residents in Palestine. Regret reply to paragraph 2 of your telegram not possible at present. The position will be clearer after action completed as proposed in paragraphs 4 and 5 of my savingram under reference. Grateful for very early reply.

Copy sent to:-

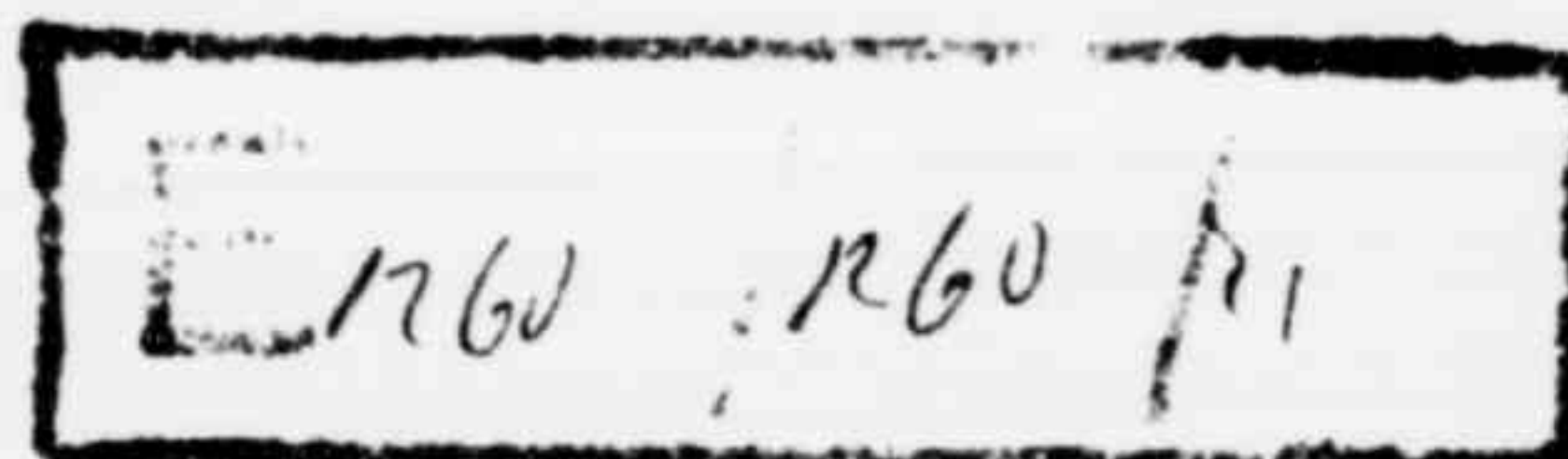
Foreign Office - Mr. J.G.S. Beith.

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

75136/48

Cypher (C.T.P.)



TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

Sent 25th February, 1948. 11.00 hrs.

INDEXED

No. 705 Secret

Your telegram No. 296.

Entry of British nationals into
Palestine.

General view is that British nationals should not be encouraged to go to Palestine in immediate future owing to unsettled situation and that control at present exercised under which entry is only accorded when justified by business or family reasons is sufficient.

2. It would be helpful if some indication could be given of the number of British nationals, other than Arabs or Jews, who will probably remain in Palestine after withdrawal, in order to enable advance assessment to be made of extent of problem of evacuation of British subjects which might fall to be dealt with by British representative should the situation warrant that course.

Copy sent to:-

Foreign Office - Mr. J.G.S. Bell.